

JUL 28 1966

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(170) SECOND LEAD CIA-LETTER
BY JOHN M. HIGHTOWER
AP SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

WASHINGTON, JULY 28 (AP)—CIA DIRECTOR RICHARD HELMS TELEPHONED A QUICK APOLOGY TO SEN. J. W. FULBRIGHT TODAY FOR A LETTER DECLARING "PLEASURE" AT A NEWSPAPER EDITORIAL CRITICAL OF FULBRIGHT.

HELMS' LETTER KICKED UP A STORM OF PROTEST, CRITICISM, AND EXPRESSIONS OF SURPRISE IN THE SENATE THIS AFTERNOON.

HELMS, IT WAS LEARNED TONIGHT, TELEPHONED FULBRIGHT, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, SAID HE APOLOGIZED FOR THE LETTER AND TOLD THE SENATOR IN SUBSTANCE "IT WAS A MISTAKE AND I REGRET IT."

FULBRIGHT, WHO JOINED IN THE SENATE DISCUSSION OF THE INCIDENT, CONFIRMED THE APOLOGY TONIGHT.

THE ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT SAID THE CIA HEAD TOLD HIM "HE WAS SORRY AND REGRETTED THE LETTER AND THAT HE DIDN'T REALLY FEEL THAT WAY ABOUT ME" AS THE LETTER SAID.

HIS OWN REACTION, FULBRIGHT SAID, WAS THAT "I WAS GLAD TO HEAR THAT." OTHERWISE, HE SAID, THE "INCIDENT SPEAKS FOR ITSELF AND I HAVE NO OTHER COMMENT ON THE MATTER."

HELMS IS SCHEDULED TO APPEAR BEFORE FULBRIGHT'S COMMITTEE TOMORROW.

THE FOREIGN, ETC., 5TH GRAT A-1000

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